

Message Text

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TAGS: UNICEF, EAID

SUBJECT: UNICEF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1. FOLLOWING IS LETTER FROM LABOUISE TO SECRETARY
MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

QUOTE

20 MARCH 1975

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO A SERIES OF SPECIAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES WHICH ARE NEEDED TO HELP RELIEVE THE SITUA-
TION OF THE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN IN COUNTRIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY
THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS. THESE PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN DEVELOP

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ED AS A RESULT OF DECISIONS TAKEN LAST YEAR BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE GOV-
ERNMENTS OF A NUMBER OF SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRIES HAVE NOW SOUGHT
SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM UNICEF TO HELP THEM MEET
THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN AND IT IS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT I REQ-
UEST YOUR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT DESCRIBES THE FIRST SERIES OF SPECIAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES, ALL OF THEM OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE WELL-
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BEING OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. ALTHOUGH NO MEASURE

OF TOTAL REQUIREMENTS, THE PROGRAMMES DESCRIBE A CURRENT NEED FOR SOME \$50 MILLION AND 140,000 TONS OF CHILDRENS FOODS. MOST OF THESE PROGRAMMES HAVE ALREADY BEEN STARTED - THANKS IN PART TO SOME SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE. HOWEVER, UNICEF SUPPORT TO THESE PROGRAMMES CANNOT CONTINUE LONG UNLESS FURTHER SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO UNICEF.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES FOR BANGLADESH IN INDIA ARE AMONG THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT. I HAVE RECENTLY VISITED THESE TWO COUNTRIES AND, ALTHOUGH THEIR SITUATION DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY, I AM FULLY CONVINCED OF THE URGENT NEED FOR THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE UNICEF HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO OFFER.

I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS SUPPORT IS NEEDED OVER AND ABOVE THE ASSISTANCE UNICEF CAN PRESENTLY PROVIDE FROM ITS GENERAL RESOURCES. THESE RESOURCES, LARGELY DERIVED FROM GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1975 ANNOUNCED AT THE SPECIAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE LAST NOVEMBER, WERE PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED BY OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD LAST MAY FOR APPROVED LONG-TERM PROJECTS. NOR CAN THESE SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1976 TO BE HELD NEXT AUTUMN. PLEDGES TO BE RECEIVED ON THAT OCCASION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR OTHER LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THOSE TO BE APPROVED BY THE UNICEF BOARD AT ITS FORTHCOMING MEETING NEXT MAY.

I AM, THEREFORE, APPEALING NOW TO GOVERNMENTS FOR SUPPORT TO THESE URGENT SPECIAL PROGRAMMES IN THE FORM OF GENEROUS SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AND IN KIND. THESE MAY BE MADE EITHER TO THE PROGRAMMES IN GENERAL OR DESIGNED FOR ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC PARTS OF THEM AS DESCRIBED IN THE DOCUMENT. I AM ALSO ASKING OUR NATIONAL COMMITTEES TO APPEAL TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

WE SHALL BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GOVERNMENTS SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF THIS APPEAL.

PLEASE ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

HENRY R. LABOUISSSE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNQUOTE
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